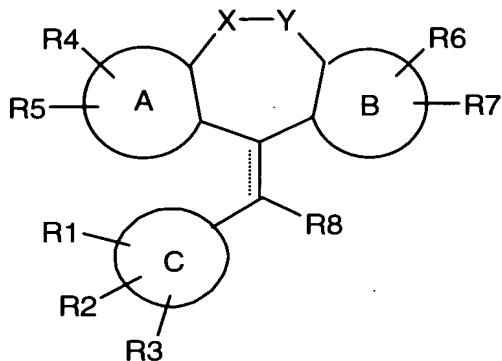


Amendments to Claims

Claims 1-121. (Cancelled)

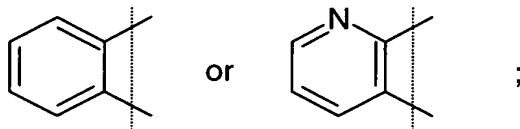
122. (New) A novel compound of Formula I:



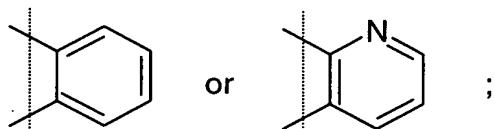
Formula I

wherein,

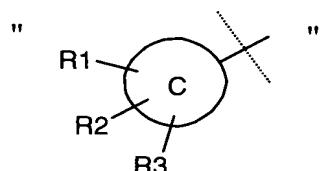
“A” represents



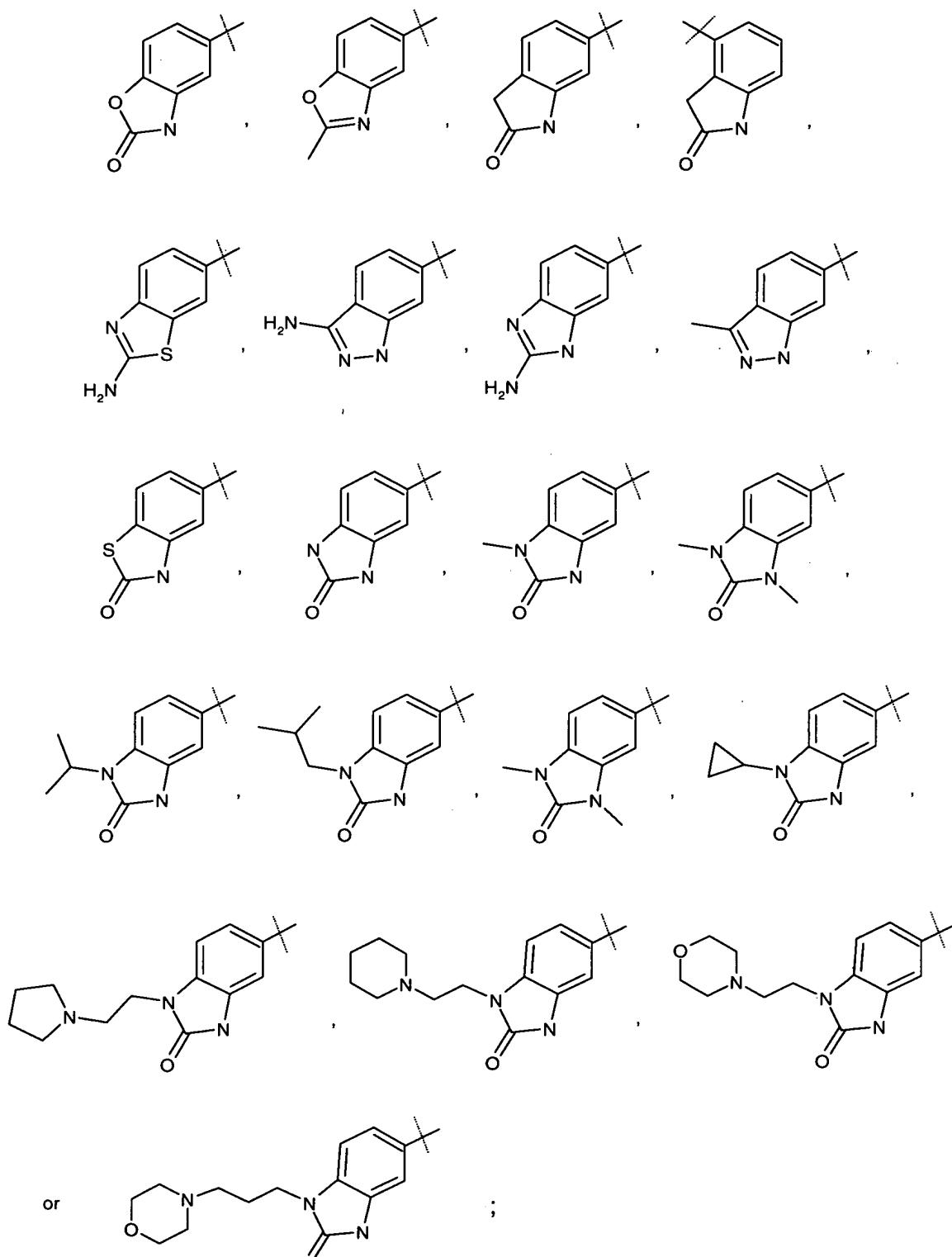
“B” represents



and



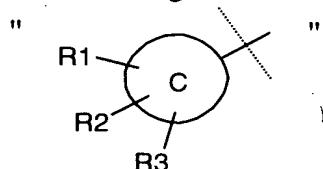
represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R1-R3, wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following:



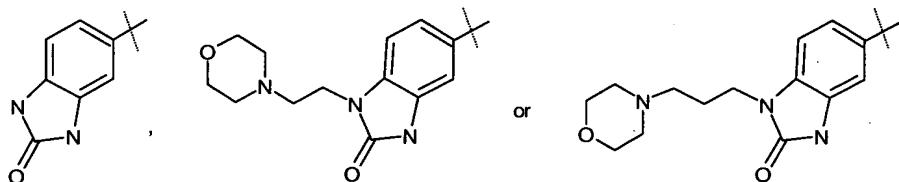
X and Y together represent $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$, or $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-$;
"———" represents a double bond;

R⁴-R⁷ each independently represent hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, or OR¹⁴ wherein R¹⁴ represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl-aryl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-substituted aryl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl ; R⁸ represents hydrogen, halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, hydroxymethyl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy , or COR¹² wherein R¹² represents (C₁-C₆)alkoxy; (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, phenyl, or substituted aryl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

123. (New) The compound according to Claim 122 wherein

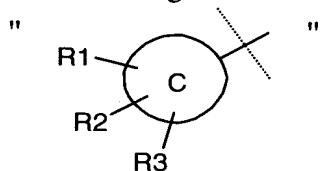


represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R1-R3, wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following:

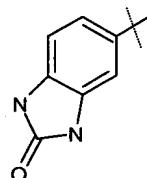


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

124. (New) The compound according to Claim 123 wherein



represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R1-R3, wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

125. (New) The compound according Claim 122 wherein R⁴ and R⁶ each independently represent hydrogen, halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, or OR¹⁴ wherein R¹⁴ represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl-aryl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-substituted aryl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl..

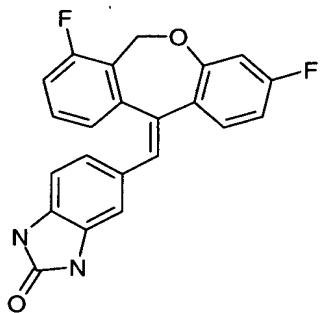
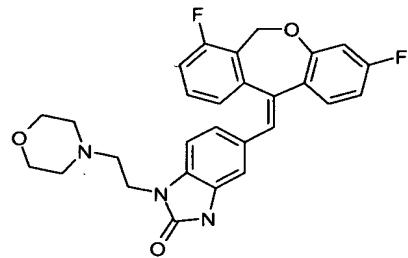
126. (New) The compound according Claim 122 wherein R⁵ and R⁷ each independently represent hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, or (C₁-C₆)alkoxy.

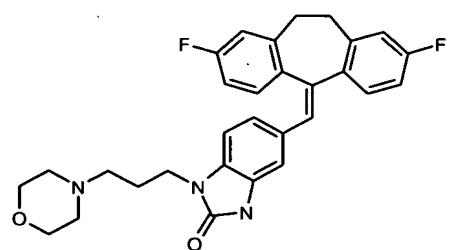
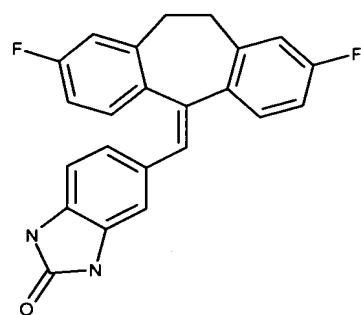
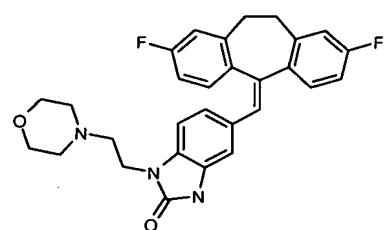
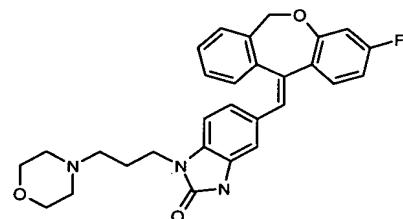
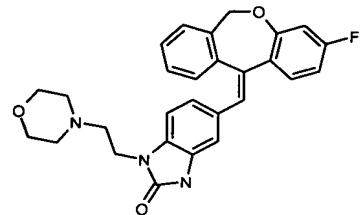
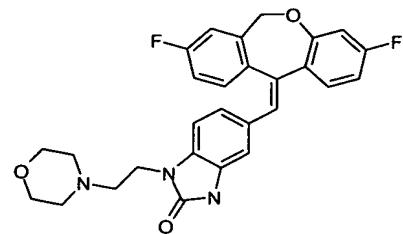
127. (New) The compound according to Claim 122 wherein R⁸ represents hydrogen, halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, or (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl.

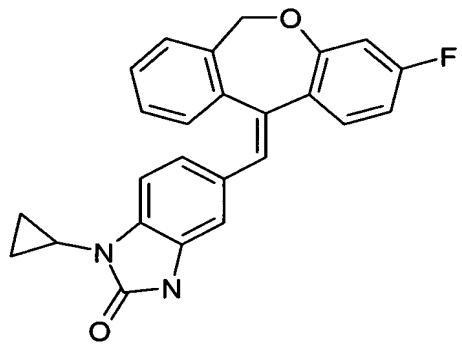
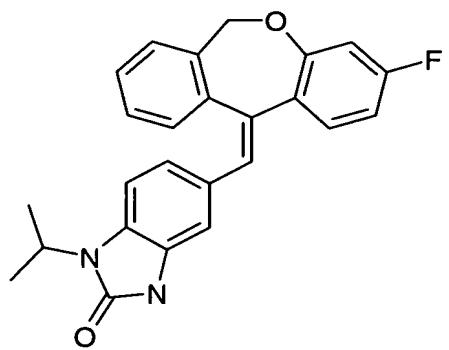
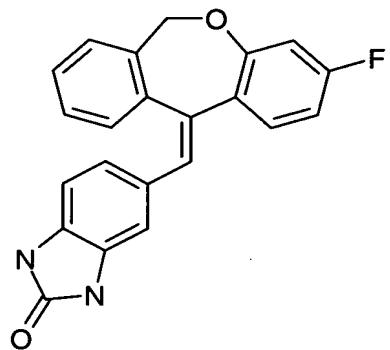
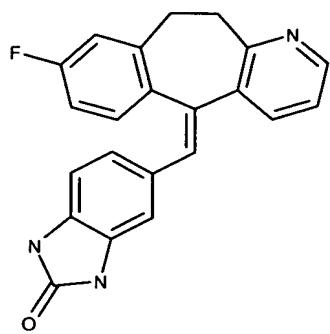
128. (New) The compound according to Claim 127 wherein R⁸ represents halo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy.

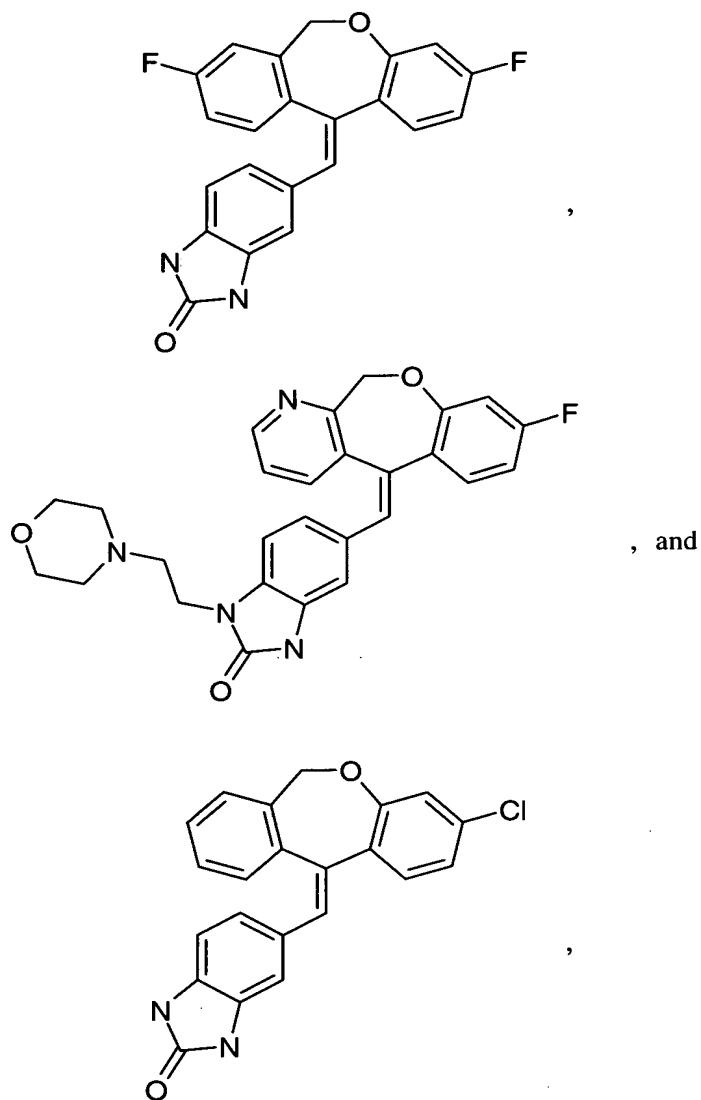
129. (New) The compound according to Claim 127 wherein R⁸ represents hydrogen.

130. (New) The compound according to Claim 122 which is selected from the group consisting of



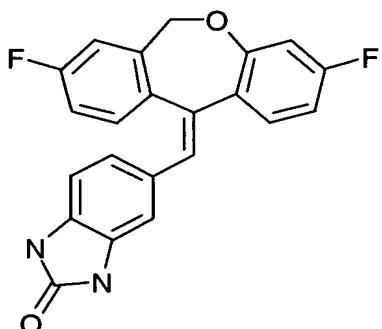






or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

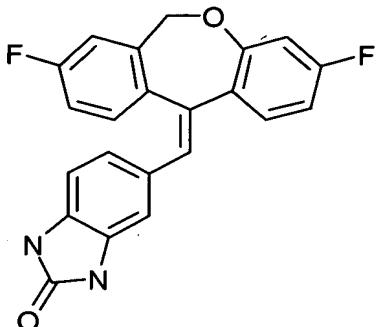
131. (New) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

132. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I according to Claim 122 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

133. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula

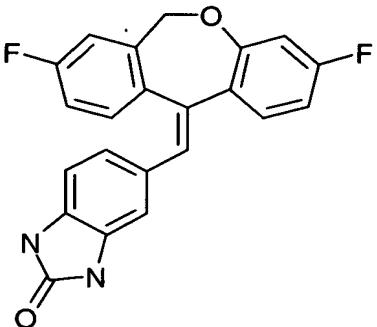


in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

134. (New) A method for the treatment of diastolic or systolic congestive heart failure comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound according to Claim 122.

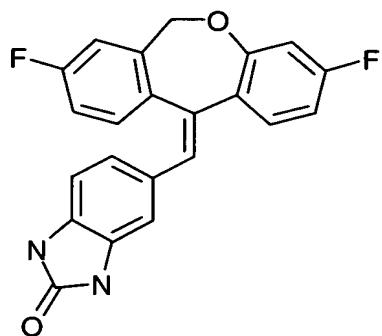
135. (New) A method for the treatment for the treatment of hypertension comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound according to Claim 122.

136.(New) A method for the treatment of diastolic or systolic congestive heart failure comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

137. (New) A method for the treatment of hypertension comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.